

Appl. No. 10/099,621  
Amdt. Dated Mar. 15, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 15, 2003

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A variable attenuator assembly (1) includes a variable attenuating connector (VAC) (11), a coupling sleeve (12), and a second plug-type connector (13). The VAC includes a housing (20) and an attached double screw mechanism (110). The double screw mechanism is finely adjustable because it uses an adjusting knob (40) having ~~a set of an~~ external thread (401) and ~~a set of an~~ internal thread (402) with ~~two~~ different screw pitches. The external ~~threads engage thread engages~~ with an internally threaded bore (303) of a connecting nut (30) attached to the housing. The internal ~~threads engage thread engages~~ with outer threading (602) on a ferrule holder (60) received in the adjusting knob. When the adjusting knob is rotated, the knob moves in one direction, and the ferrule holder is moved in the opposite direction, the total distance of ferrule holder movement relative to the housing being proportional to the difference between the screw pitches.